

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 04589 180754Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /073 W
-----021646 190324Z /12

R 180740Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3187
INFO EC COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 4589

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECIN, EEC, NL
SUBJECT: DUTCH FAVOR MORE MAJORITY DECISIONS IN EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

1. STATE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS VAN DER MEI TOLD THE YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALIST CONFERENCE ON THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S FOREIGN POLICE THAT GON WOULD LIKE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO MAKE MORE DECISIONS BY MAJORITY VOTE INSTEAD OF REQUIRING UNANIMITY ON PRACTICALLY ALL ISSUES. IN ADDRESSING THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH GROUP CURRENTLY MEETING IN SANTPOORT NEAR HAARLEM HE SAID THAT, WHILE IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT ANY CHANGE CAN BE MADE IN THE TREATY OF ROME TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF UNANIMITY, HE THOUGHT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO INDUCE NUMBER STATES TO EXERCISE MODERATION AND SELF-RESTRAINT IN ORDER NOT TO OBSTRUCT THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. HE RECOMMENDED GREATER AND MORE FREQUENT USE OF PERSUASION INCLUDING PROCEDURAL SUPPORT FOR SUCH AN APPROACH. FOR THE FUTURE HE PROPOSED THAT MORE RESPONSIBILITY BE GIVEN TO THE EC COMMISSION AND THAT AGENDA FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS BE LIMITED TO ISSUES OF GENUINE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE.

2. COMMENT: IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHETHER VAN DER MEI'S SUGGESTION IS JUST A CRY IN THE NIGHT OR WHETHER IT WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A CONCERTED DUTCH
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CAMPAIGN. WE BELIEVE HIS SUGGESTION SHOULD AT LEAST BE CONSIDERED A RESTATEMENT OF A LONG-STANDING DUTCH DESIRE TO IMPROVE THE EC DECISION MAKING PROCESS. WHILE HE MENTIONED THE TREATY OF ROME, WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MUCH CONSIDERATION (IF ANY) THE DUTCH HAVE GIVEN TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE 1966 LUXEMBOURG AGREEMENT WHICH SAVED THE DAY FOR THE SIX ON THIS ISSUE AT THAT

TIME. IT WILL ALSO BE OF INTEREST TO NOTE WHETHER HIS
PROPOSAL IS ECHOED BY SYMPATHETIC GOVERNMENTS AMONG
THE NINE.
DUNNIGAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VOTING, DECISIONS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978THEHA04589
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780339-0418
Format: TEL
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780846/aaaabmgm.tel
Line Count: 66
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9745e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1687966
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DUTCH FAVOR MORE MAJORITY DECISIONS IN EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
TAGS: ECIN, NL, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9745e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014